

March 15, 2009 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 am

Third Sunday in Lent

Liturgical Color: Purple

Preparation for Worship and Announcements

Dr. Mary Lynn Polk, Lay Leader

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name.

Chiming of the Hour

In silence and reverence, let us prepare our hearts for worship.

Prelude

Marche Religieuse

Alexandre Guilmant

Chiming of the Trinity

*Call to Worship

Bob Cureton, Church Treasurer

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God. The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

People: **We celebrate the steadfast love of God, our Creator. Surely God is faithful to all who live in covenant.**

Leader: From the sun's rising to its setting, the creation speaks. Day and night, earth's creatures announce God's works.

People: **The commandments of God are clear, enlightening the eyes. God's law is perfect, calling forth our best.**

Leader: God's foolishness is wiser than any human wisdom. God's weakness is stronger than any human strength.

People: **The ordinances of God are true and righteous. In following them, we gain wisdom and strength.**

*Hymn No. 152

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Forest Green

Call to Confession (*You are invited to the altar for personal prayer time.*)

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

We have come to your temple, loving God, because this is your place, not ours. We confess that we sometimes forget whose house this is. We forget that all the world belongs to you as we scramble for all we can claim for ourselves. Our actions deny your love, which is at the heart of your perfect law. Our minds have justified the breaking of your law to suit current trends and feelings. We cry out for forgiveness and the opportunity for a fresh start. Clear us of hidden faults and redeem us from those we recognize and confess. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

When our prayers become more than pious words; when in awe before God, we truly seek forgiveness; the Almighty becomes for us a guiding presence. We are healed, strengthened, and set free from our slavery to sin. In steadfast love, God claims us, saying: You are my people. Dare to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Amen.

Anthem

I Will Give My Heart to the Lord
Angel Choir

Mark Patterson

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

Pages 82 & 83 (OT) in pew Bibles

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Page 202 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem (See insert for words)

Ah, Holy Jesus
Chancel Choir

arr. Craig Courtney

Pastoral Prayer

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

Lord's Prayer (In Unison)

Offering

Offertory

Lamb of God Most Holy

David Cherwein

*Doxology No. 95

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

Children's Time

Alice Balentine

All children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message. Following Children's Time, 3-year-olds through Kindergarteners may leave the Sanctuary for Extended Session.

*Passing of the Peace

*Hymn No. 185

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Laudes Domini

*Affirmation of Faith No. 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Gloria Patri No. 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

†*Gospel Lesson

John 2:13-22

Page 113(NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Very Idea"

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

*Hymn No. 292

What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

*Prayer Shawl Blessing

*Benediction

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

*Benediction Response No. 666

Shalom to You

SHALOM

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

*Postlude

†Sermon Text

*Please stand if you are able

Nursery Provided